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Bangalore Mirror

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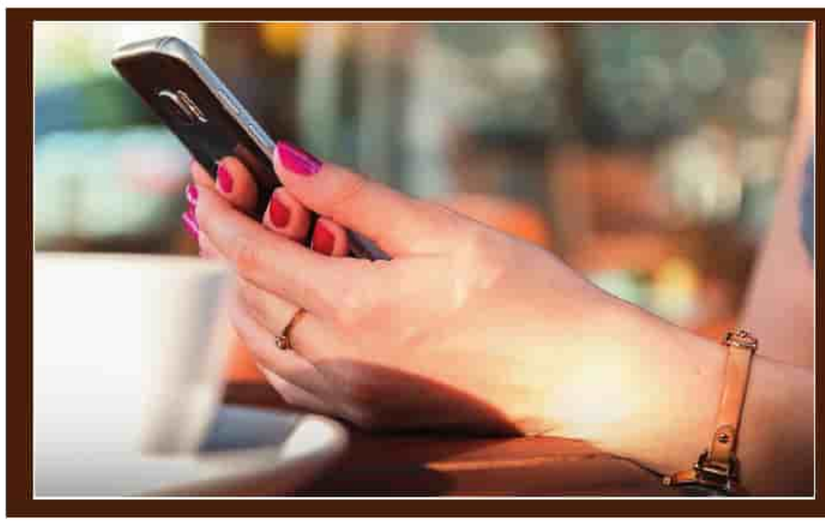

LOAN WOLVES

Scammers target women through loan apps, often stealing data and issuing threats; experts warn of rising digital extortion

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COMPOST CONCESSION

Apartments' forum begins survey of smaller apartment communities practising in-situ composting, which will exempt them from waste management fee

PAGE 4

55 murders in three months this year — personal grudges and property disputes seem to be major driving forces behind violent rage in city; but 16% drop in homicide cases in 2024 as compared to 2023

MURDERS MOST FOUL

Police say dip in attempt-to-murder cases suggest measures working against escalation of crime

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Violent crimes have cast a shadow over Bengaluru, with 55 murder cases reported across the city in the past three months alone. From personal vendettas to disputes over property and money, the causes are as varied as they are disturbing.

However, despite the recent spate, police data shows a 16% drop in overall murder cases in 2024 as compared to 2023. In 2024, Bengaluru reported 450 murder cases, of which 417 were solved, indicating a slight decline in the city's homicide rate.

According to DCP (South) Lokesh Jagalsar the reasons behind the murders range from sudden emotional outbursts to calculated acts driven by long-standing enmities. "As long as the human race exists, such crimes will occur. Emotions like anger, jealousy, and greed act as major triggers," said a senior officer from the police.

"Disputes over property and personal issues, and revenge triggers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"The reasons behind the murders range from sudden emotional outbursts to calculated acts driven by long-standing enmities
— Lokesh Jagalsar, DCP (South)

Out-of-control spending for control rooms

Cost of setting up rain relief centres has gone up by four times as compared to 2 years ago, as per BBMP's calculations

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To assist citizens this monsoon, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) plans to set up control rooms at different locations in the city. The BBMP has floated tenders inviting bidders for establishing control rooms.

However, a four-fold increase in cost of setting up each control room from the cost fixed two years ago has left civic activists flabbergasted.

For instance: A tender has been floated inviting bidders to set up control rooms in Bommanahalli Ward (No. 175) and other wards at an estimated cost of Rs 45 lakh and another at ward number 122, 123, 124, and 125 in Gandhinagar Sub Division at an estimated cost of Rs 20 lakh. Another tender was floated to set up control rooms in ward number 126, 127, and 128 at an estimated cost of Rs 15 lakh.

It is said that the cost of setting up each control room was fixed at Rs 1.25 lakh two years ago. And now, the cost of setting up each control room is expected to be Rs 5 lakh.

Each control room is expected to be equipped with tree-cutting equipment to remove fallen trees, and a 10 HP water pump to drain water from places that are inundated with rainwater during monsoon. Each control room should have a five-crew team under the assistant executive

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Fandom fun

Sonic, the star of Sonic the Hedgehog, and the official mascot of the Japanese video game company Sega, will be zooming in for a thrilling on-stage performance, followed by a meet-and-greet. **Where: Phoenix Mall of Asia, Yelahanka; When: April 26 and April 27, 2 pm and 8 pm**

02 Vibrant vibes

Sarjapur SOCIAL is transforming into a vibrant bazaar, offering a kaleidoscope of fashion, art, and unique experiences—the ultimate destination to shop, sip, and soak up the eclectic energy. **Where: SOCIAL, Sarjapur; When: April 26, 2 pm to 11 pm**

03 Literary journey

Tulika Books is organising the launch of the book 'Go Go Flamingo!', which paints a telling picture of the violence unthinking humans inflict on the natural world through hazardous waste. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: April 26, 2.30 pm**

04 Play time

Svasti Art Foundation is presenting 'When Gods Party...!', a dance theatre production featuring a playful and lighthearted celebration of gods. **Where: ADA Rangamandira, JC Road; When: April 25, 6.15 pm**

05 Art haven

National Gallery of Modern Art is inaugurating an in-house curated exhibition 'Journeying the life experience through art: Amitabh Sengupta's Odyssey of six decades'. **Where: National Gallery of Modern Art, Palace Road; When: April 25, 5 pm**

NGT orders land allocation for sewage treatment plant

Certain parcels of land identified for establishing treatment plant at Chandapura Lake remain unacquired, while identification process in some areas continues

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In 2021, the Green Court registered a suo motu case on Chandapura Lake after a news report highlighted its deteriorating condition

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Karnataka government to initiate steps for identification, acquisition, and transfer of land for the construction of the sewage treatment plant (STP) at the highly polluted Chandapura Lake.

The tribunal has instructed the government to take necessary actions before July 3. "The state government is directed to initiate steps for identification, acquisition, and transfer of land for the construction of the STP before the next date of hearing. Failing compliance, the Deputy Commissioner of Bengaluru shall be directed to appear," the order from the NGT noted.

The Southern Bench of the Green Court observed that, although certain parcels of land have been identified for establishing STPs, they have not yet been acquired. In some areas, the identification process itself remains pending.

In 2021, the Green Court registered a suo motu case on Chandapura Lake after a news report highlighted its deteriorating condition. A joint committee was formed to conduct a spot inspection and assess remedial measures. After inspection in 2022, the committee suggested measures for the revival of Chandapura Lake, which was followed by the NGT imposing an environmental compensation (EC) of Rs 500 crore on the Karnataka government for its failure to control pollution in and around the lake. The state was allowed to recover the amount of compensation from violators, including industries, encroachers, and erring officers.

The order was passed based on the factual aspects of a report by the committee that included the Central Pollution Control Board, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Indian Institute of Science, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority of Karnataka, National Wetland Committee, State Wetland Authority, and the District Magistrate of Bengaluru. A report was also filed by the then-Chief Secretary of Karnataka and the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board. Reports suggested that the deterioration of the lake was due to the discharge of untreated/treated sewage from the surrounding area and industrial effluent discharge from Kachanayakanahalli Lake upstream. Rapid encroachment was yet another reason cited for the poor condition of the water body.

Reports suggested that the deterioration of the lake was due to the discharge of untreated/treated sewage from the surrounding area and industrial effluent discharge

As per the orders, environmental compensation was also imposed on industries within the lake's catchment area for discharging untreated effluents. However, the process of recovering fines from these industries has also been going on at a snail's pace.

By January this year, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) had recovered less than 1% of the total penalty. This was after KSPCB levied an environmental compensation of a little over Rs 140.26 crore for 54 non-compliant industries. The Board has received nearly Rs 1.40 crore from four of the 54 units, out of the given amount so far.

KSPCB also informed NGT that some of the industries approached higher courts challenging the environmental compensation, getting an interim stay on the environmental compensation demand with conditions to submit part of the compensation to the Board.

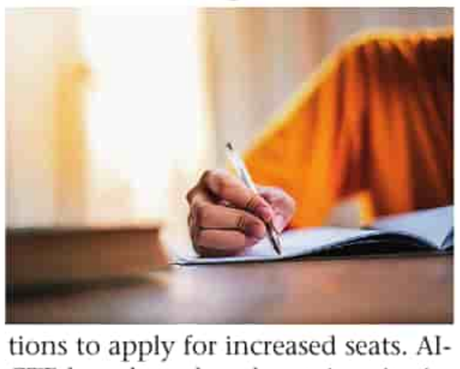
Higher intake planned for engineering courses

With rising demand for engineering courses over the past year, the number of Common Entrance Test (CET) seats is set to increase for the 2025-26 academic year. Many private universities, which previously conducted separate entrance exams, have now decided to fill most of their seats through CET, further boosting availability.

"Several engineering and technical colleges have already submitted proposals for intake expansion, awaiting approval from the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)," a Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) official said. The official highlighted that the number of engineering seats has seen a steady rise over the years to meet growing demand. In 2023, a total of 1,24,551 seats were available, with 58,845 allotted under the KEA. The official noted that there was an increase in 2024, with total seats reaching 1,32,309 and KEA seats rising to 62,930. The official said that the trend reflects efforts to expand opportunities for engineering aspirants through increased intake capacity across colleges.

AICTE relaxation allows higher intake

Previously, colleges had to submit intake expansion proposals to Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), which would then verify infrastructure requirements before recommending approval to AICTE. However, colleges now directly submit their proposals to AICTE, bypassing VTU scrutiny. Despite objections from the state government, this process has continued, allowing many institutions to apply for increased seats. AICTE has also relaxed certain criteria, making it easier for colleges to expand their intake by up to four times.



Major seat expansion in key courses

"A private engineering college in North Bengaluru has proposed increasing its Computer Science intake from 240 to 360 seats. Similarly, expansions have been proposed in Artificial Intelligence (90 additional seats), Information Technology (90), and Robotics (30)," the KEA official added. Additionally, the official noted that the institution aims to increase its seat count from 450 to 780, with many other colleges following suit.

Changes in KEA seat allocation

In response to past instances of blocked seats in CET counselling, KEA has recommended adjustments to the seat allocation process. Previously, after the third round unfilled seats were returned to colleges, allowing management to convert them into high-cost management quota seats. To prevent this, KEA will continue allocating seats in additional rounds beyond the third round for 2025.

— BMB

Uniform assured for Anganwadi workers

Anganwadi workers and assistants have received uniforms from the state government only three times in the past six years. Sources said that under the Integrated Child Development Scheme, the government aimed to provide these workers with uniforms, but the distribution has been inconsistent. While the workers received uniforms worth Rs 10.27 crore in 2019-2020, no distribution took place in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. In 2023-2024, the government procured 2,74,936 sarees for Rs 13.75 crore, but no funds have been provided for 2024-2025. The government has assured that uniforms for 2024-2025 will be distributed soon.

— BMB

Loan apps prey on women, data theft and harassment ensue

Scammers target women through loan apps, stealing data and issuing threats; experts warn of rising digital extortion disguised as quick loans

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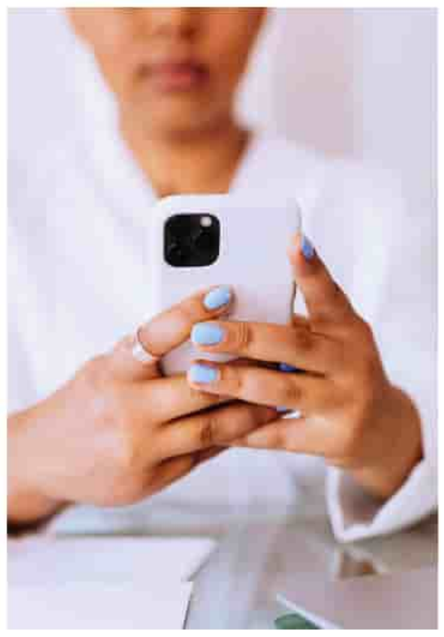

Women are increasingly becoming the primary targets of cybercrime, police data reveals. In recent months, 1,130 cybercrime cases involving women have been reported. These include harassment, blackmail, identity theft, and financial scams.

Police have also registered 59 cases related to loan app frauds till March 2025, with many of these scams exploiting women by misusing their data for extortion. In the previous year, 252 cases were reported against the same, but in the first three months of 2024, only 14 cases were registered

In one recent case, a citizen fell prey to such a scam after downloading a loan app named Score Climb from the Google Play Store. Although the app appeared legitimate, it secretly accessed the victim's phone, retrieving sensitive information like ID documents and contact lists.

The victim, who shared screenshots of the incident on social media to raise awareness, reported that she never applied for or accepted any loan from the app. Despite this, she began receiving threatening messages demanding ₹1,500. The harassment escalated with threatening calls and WhatsApp messages, including threats to distribute morphed nude photos to pressure her into paying.

Cybersecurity experts warn that such scams are part of a broader network of digital extortion operations disguised as lending services. "These criminals thrive on fear and vulnerability," said Dr Harsha Thennarasu, Chief Cyber Security Advisor. "Women are often targeted with personal threats. In these loan app scams, tech-savvy individuals are usually not the victims—it's mostly the middle class, including men and senior citizens desperate for financial help."

How do scammers access data?

Dr Thennarasu further explained, "They lure users with promises of fast cash and minimal paperwork—just a PAN or Aadhaar number. After installation, they send a link asking users to install a secondary app. When users tap 'allow,' they unknowingly grant access to their contacts, photos, and other private data. The scammers may deposit a small amount into the victim's account to create a false sense of legitimacy, then start harassing the victim a week later. If the victim refuses to pay, they threaten to shame them by sending messages to people in their contact list.

In response to this growing threat, the Reserve Bank of India and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in 2024 instructed Google to remove fraudulent loan apps from the Play Store. Google acted by removing over 2,200 such apps. Prior to this directive, Google had already reviewed around 3,500 to 4,000 loan apps and suspended more than 2,500 of them from the Play Store between April 2021 and July 2022. Additionally, between September 2022 and August 2023, another 2,200 apps were taken down.

Dr Thennarasu cautions against downloading apps through web browsers or unverified sources, as these often bypass Play Store protections. Even though the Play Store may host some safe apps, users are urged to avoid shortcuts and only install apps from trusted and verified sources.

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BAF pushes for SWM fee exemption for apartments

BAF is surveying smaller apartment complexes with composting systems to advocate for exemption from BBMP's solid waste management fees

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Even smaller apartment buildings in the city — those with fewer than 100 units — may soon be exempt from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) solid waste management user fee, provided they have an in-house composting system. This is after the Bangalore Apartment Federation (BAF) has begun surveying smaller apartment communities practicing in-situ composting.

"Many apartment complexes with 30 to 40 units end up paying a hefty solid waste management fee, which is significantly higher than what private houses pay. However, according to BBMP's definition, these apartments with in-house composting systems do not qualify as bulk waste generators. We are currently collecting data to understand how many communities are impacted by the existing property tax structure," said a member of the Bangalore Apartments' Federation (BAF). Once the data is collected, BAF plans to advocate for apartment complexes with fewer than 100 units that practice in-situ composting, so they too can be exempted from the SWM user fee.

At the moment, the only available option in the property tax system is a flat ₹12 per apartment, regardless of waste management practices. From this financial year, BBMP Property tax has a component for SWM fees, commonly called garbage tax.

> **"While we have not yet received any formal requests from such communities, we are open to reviewing the matter once a presentation is made**
> – Senior Official, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML).

The civic agency recently exempted bulk waste generators from paying the newly introduced solid waste management (SWM) fee — but only for those who do not rely on the BBMP for waste collection. According to the rule, a bulk waste generator is defined as one that falls into any of the following four categories: commercial and institutional establishments; those generating more than 100 kilograms of waste per day; properties spread over more than 53,820 square feet; and residential complexes with over 100 dwelling units.

Smaller residential communities in Bengaluru may soon benefit from policy changes as discussions continue around solid waste management exemptions

Kitchen secrets turn scraps into sustainable solutions

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Kitchen Secrets, an Earth Day event aimed at encouraging every home to cook using scraps that are usually thrown away, was held on Tuesday by Beautiful Bharat and Eat Raja. The initiative focused on showing how simple and effective zero-waste cooking can be.

Odette Katrak, Founder of Beautiful Bharat, said she wanted to choose a meaningful Earth Day action that everyone could try, as small changes can have a significant impact. "Cooking with food scraps felt like the perfect choice because it grabs attention and is something anyone can do. Many people aren't fully conscious of their environmental impact, but they still need a way to contribute," she explained. "We often see rotting watermelon rinds tied in plastic bags and dumped on roadsides — this leads to the release of methane, a potent greenhouse gas that directly contributes to climate change. By cooking the white rind of watermelon and exploring other recipes using scraps that are usually discarded, every household can play a small but important role in reversing climate change," she added.

(Left)Some of the delicious items made out of kitchen waste; (Right) Volunteers and people who attended Kitchen Secrets event

The event was modelled on the current monthly contest called 'Treasures from Trash 2.0' started in October 2023 on World Food Day and now in its 20th month, pulling in many such recipes that need to reach every home.

Eat Raja, who runs India's first zero-waste juice bar and hosted the event in Malleswaram, said he has been following the Treasures from Trash campaign and felt it was a great opportunity to get more people excited about the concept. "As a zero-waste juice bar, we serve juice only in the shell of the fruit and encourage people to eat the fruit as well. Today, we got more than 50 people enthusiastic about cooking with food scraps. My personal favourite was the juice made from orange peels — we prepared and served it, and it tasted amazing," he said.Around 50 people, including students, interns, volunteers, and members of the public, attended the event. Madhura travelled all the way from Jalahalli with her two children after learning about the event on Instagram.

Odette demonstrated how to make delicious treats using common kitchen scraps that are usually discarded. She shared that attendees left the event with practical knowledge on how to reduce wet waste generation at home. Ashok Urs of Malleswaram, who attended the event, said, "People will also save money, so that's another great reason to start cooking with scraps."

The challenge to all was to ensure everyone gets to know the secret and stop throwing these food scraps of peels, seeds, rind or pulp.

The white part of the watermelon was a crowd favourite, with several interesting dishes made from it — including watermelon rind dosa, jam, and pickle. Other highlights included a mango seed mouth freshener, along with creative ideas for using fruit and vegetable skins in chutneys and fryums, and melon seeds to make vitamin-rich powder and more.

Agastya from Suncity shared his successful experiment of pickling watermelon rind in a style similar to pickled cucumbers — and everyone had a chance to taste it too. The full recipes can be accessed through the bio link on the Instagram page @ beautifulbharatorg under TFT Recipes — short for Treasures from Trash recipes!

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Commuter Peril

Chandra Layout

A longstanding blackspot near Chandra Layout continues to pose a serious threat to commuters at Nagarbhavi 1st Stage.

Parking nuisance

Walton Road

A car left unattended on Walton Road for over five years continues to occupy valuable parking space, drawing concern from residents and commuters alike.

Safety neglect

Kalyan Nagar

Incomplete cable work by BMRCL opposite a shopping mall in Kalyan Nagar has created unsafe conditions, posing a significant risk to pedestrians navigating the area.

Dog killing: Blood on doc's hands?

Neurosurgeon is under investigation after residents of apartment he stays in accuse him of carrying community dog up to terrace to fling it to its death; FIR is registered, police to question accused

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A city-based doctor allegedly killed a stray dog named Scooby in an incident currently under investigation. The incident occurred at Brindavan Apartments in Lakkasandra, where the dog had been cared for by residents. The accused, Dr Sagar Ballal, a neurosurgeon currently undergoing mandatory training at NIMHANS, is now at the centre of a police investigation.

According to the FIR registered by the Adugodi police, the complaint was filed by Ayush Bhattacharjee, a student and resident of the same apartment complex. Ayush and other residents had been looking after the dog, a 3 to 4-year-old female, who had taken shelter on the terrace of their apartment building.

Earlier assault on dog

The first act of cruelty dates back to February 5, 2025. In the early hours of the morning, Scooby was reportedly thrown from the third floor of the building. Ayush found her bleeding, in visible distress, and immediately rushed

(Left) Windshield of parked car damaged in impact of fall; (right) Scooby, the dog that died in the fall

her to Pawas Life Line Hospital in Jayanagar. There, veterinarians confirmed that she had suffered a fractured spine and other serious injuries, injuries consistent with a fall from a great height.

The residents suspected Dr Ballal, who had previously expressed displeasure over the dog's presence. However, with no direct witnesses at the time, the matter remained unresolved. Scooby underwent two months of treatment and was eventually brought back to the apartment after recovery, once again under the care of concerned residents.

However, on April 20, around 2:40 am, residents heard a loud thud. When they rushed out to investigate, they found Scooby lying on the ground, critically injured. The dog had fallen onto a parked car, damaging its windshield from the impact. This time, the evidence was more concrete.

CCTV footage from the apartment reportedly shows Dr Ballal carrying the dog upstairs. Just minutes later, the dog is seen falling from the same spot. As some residents rushed to help the dog, others reported seeing Dr Ballal slam his apartment door shut and refuse to answer. Scooby was once again rushed to the veterinary hospital, but this time, she succumbed to her injuries shortly after arrival.

Investigation underway

Based on the evidence and statements from residents, Adugodi police have registered an FIR against Dr Sagar Ballal under Section 325 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which deals with mischief committed by killing, poisoning, or rendering an animal useless. The doctor is expected to be summoned for questioning in the coming days.

To add to the gravity of the case, the complainant also revealed that Dr Ballal was previously involved in a similar incident in Madhya Pradesh, where he was accused of killing a dog in April 2024.

The case has sparked outrage among animal welfare organisations and activists across Bengaluru. Arun Prasad, an animal activist, condemned the act and urged law enforcement to take swift and decisive action. "This is not just about one dog. It's about a growing insensitivity and cruelty towards animals that we are seeing more frequently. If such acts go unpunished, it sends a dangerous message to society," said Prasad. This is not an isolated case, with reports of animal cruelty rising in recent years. Despite existing laws, enforcement remains weak.

14-year sentence for peddling

A Nigerian national has been sentenced to 14 years in prison and fined ₹1.60 lakh for attempting to sell MDMA, a banned narcotic substance, in the city. The verdict was delivered by the NDPS Special Court, affirming the rigorous efforts of the Banaswadi Police in curbing the drug menace.

The case dates back to October 9, 2022, when Banaswadi Police, acting on intelligence received from the Commercial Street Police, conducted a raid near BDA Park in HRBR Layout 3rd Block. Kingsley was apprehended while allegedly attempting to sell 140 grams of MDMA to college students in the vicinity. Following his arrest, Kingsley was booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. The investigation, conducted in adherence to legal protocols, was supported by testimonies from six witnesses. —BMB

Teen dies in crash

A road accident occurred in the early hours of Thursday near Richmond Circle flyover, resulting in the death of a 19-year-old man and injuries to another.

According to the Ashokanagar Traffic Police, Shreyas Patil, 19, son of Patil Shivanand, was riding the motorcycle with his friend Chetan K, also 19, as the pillion rider. The duo was headed from Shantinagar towards Cash Pharmacy Junction when Shreyas, riding in a rash and negligent manner, lost control of the vehicle near the Bangalore Club stretch of the flyover.

The impact caused both riders to be thrown from the motorcycle. Shreyas sustained severe head injuries and fell unconscious, while Chetan suffered a serious injury to his left leg. Passersby and the traffic police took both victims to the Hospital. Shreyas was declared dead on arrival, while Chetan is undergoing treatment. —BMB

BM Food & Night Life

Five superfoods to fuel your body

Superfoods are packed with vitamins, minerals and trace elements said to boost immunity and remove toxicity. Certain foods have been passed down through generations in Indian homes for their ability to boost immunity and remove toxicity. Eating almonds or berries, drinking coconut water in summer or sweet lime juice for vitamin C and immunity, as well as those lumps of mashed green, in South India, called 'kuraak'--a must at every meal.

Nutritionist-cum-dietician Sheela Krishnaswamy says she's not quite aware when the term superfoods came into being, but funnily, they are here to stay.

So, go ahead and incorporate these 5 new superfoods into your daily diet.

1. Quinoa

This pseudo cereal is high in proteins, fibre and iron; rich in zinc, vitamin E and selenium. Quinoa helps control weight and lowers the risk of heart disease and diabetes.

2. Very berry

Berries have natural pigments and are a rich source of antioxidants. Indian gooseberry has the highest amount of vitamin C. More recently, cranberry, acai berry, and goji berry have jumped onto the superfood bandwagon.

3. Whole grain brown rice

Shonali Saberwal, author of The Beauty Diet, and chef and instructor in macrobiotics, says, "Whole grain brown rice keeps blood sugar levels steady and has 70 per cent anti-ageing antioxidants, vitamin B and trace elements. It's also good news for all those weight-watchers as it helps burn unwanted fat."

4. Spirulina

Apart from being a complete protein, Spirulina is also rich in chlorophyll with a magnesium molecule at its centre, which helps absorb vitamin D and calcium, making it excellent for skeletal health.

5. Salmon

Krishnaswamy explains, "Salmon is rich in omega 3 fats, proteins and vitamin D." These fatty acids work to reduce the risk of inflammation.

—Femina

Greater Bengaluru bill cleared

The long-anticipated restructuring of Bengaluru's municipal governance is now set in motion, with Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot granting approval to the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024.

Cleared by both the Assembly and the Council last month, the Bill introduces a decentralized model aimed at enhancing civic administration and the quality of life for residents. Initially returned by the Governor for clarifications, it was later passed with key amendments suggested by a joint legislative committee. The Congress-led government's reform creates a Greater Bengaluru Authority to oversee governance and proposes dividing the city into seven independent municipal corporations, replacing the overburdened BBMP. Officials believe the overhaul will improve service delivery and may double the city's municipal limits from the current 708 square kilometres. — BMB

City gets B-SMILE boost

The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday approved a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE), to spearhead infrastructure upgrades and ease congestion in Bengaluru and its surroundings. As part of a broader urban development strategy, B-SMILE will ensure professional oversight and coordination of key projects. The Cabinet also approved its Memorandum and Articles of Association. Separately, 38 acres and 18 guntas in Gundlahalli, Doddaballapur taluk, were cleared for a solid waste management project. BBMP will proceed once BioPharma Technologies Pvt Ltd meets all conditions. Additionally, the Revenue Department has been directed to expedite the transfer of 46 acres of government land to BBMP, waiving market value and statutory charges and statutory fees. — BMB

Karnataka leads India's IT exports

Bengaluru accounts for 43% of national exports by attracting global IT firms, research centres

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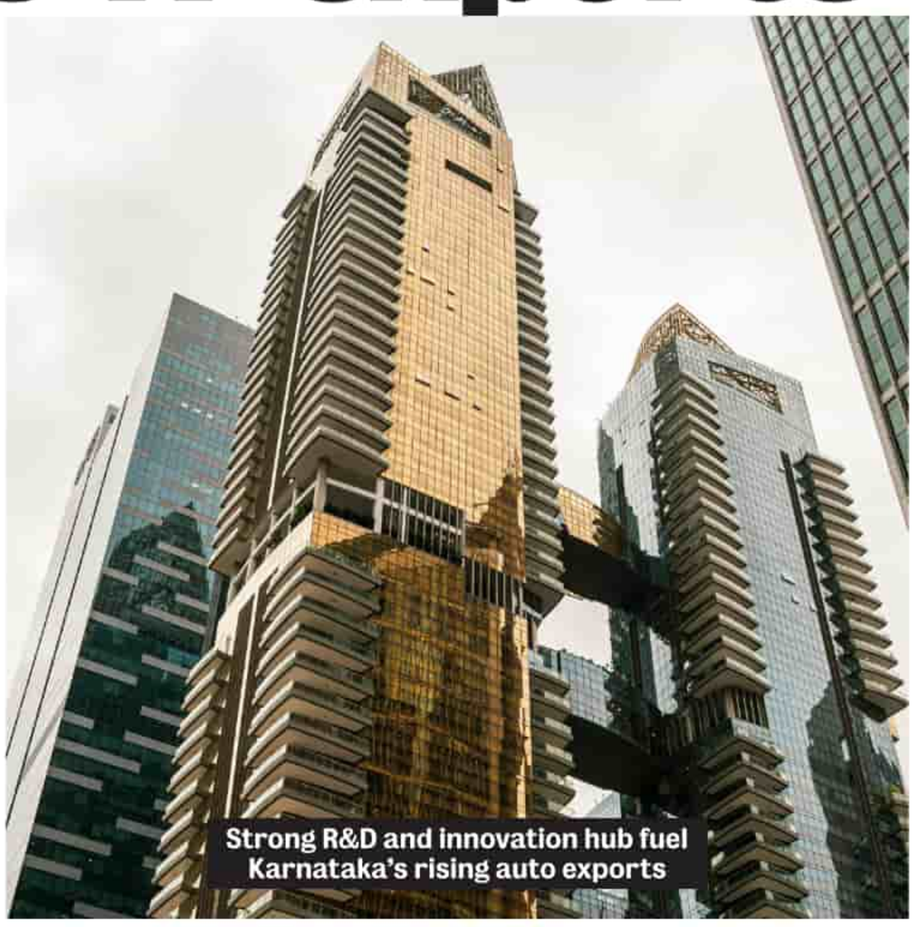
Strong R&D and innovation hub fuel Karnataka's rising auto exports

Karnataka has once again cemented its dominance as India's IT powerhouse, contributing an impressive ₹4,09,095.04 crore in IT exports for the financial year 2023–24. This accounts for over 43% of the country's total IT exports from STPI-registered units, making Karnataka the undisputed leader in the sector. Bengaluru, the state's capital and India's technology hub, continues to drive this growth by attracting global IT firms, start-ups, and research centres.

In a recent reply in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada highlighted the substantial gap between Karnataka and other states. Maharashtra, which ranks second, recorded ₹1,83,847.52 crore in IT exports, less than half of Karnataka's total. Haryana, in third place, contributed ₹53,172.07 crore, while Telangana and Tamil Nadu, ranking fourth and fifth respectively, reported ₹1,21,116.62 crore and ₹80,677.43 crore.

Karnataka's dominance in the sector is attributed to its world-class infrastructure, a highly skilled workforce, a thriving startup ecosystem, and strong government support through initiatives such as the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM). The state's exponential growth in IT exports continues to set benchmarks that other states find hard to match.

Karnataka is also making its mark in the auto components sector, ranking fourth with exports worth ₹4,265.10 crore in FY 2023–24. While Tamil Nadu leads the segment with ₹20,168.65 crore, followed by Maharashtra at ₹13,820.05 crore and Haryana at ₹7,722.14 crore, Karnataka's robust manufacturing base, innovation hubs, and R&D ecosystem have helped it emerge as a significant player. With a growing network of automotive OEMs and suppliers, the state is well-positioned to expand its footprint in this sector.

In the motor vehicle and cars segment, Karnataka stood sixth nationwide, recording ₹3,757.43 crore in exports. Tamil Nadu topped the list with ₹25,069.92 crore, followed by Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, and Haryana. Despite its position, Karnataka's established automobile industry bolstered by major manufacturers, EV start-ups, and advanced research centres continues to show promise. As the transition towards electric and smart mobility gains momentum, the state is expected to play a pivotal role in shaping India's future in automobile exports.

> **"State's exponential growth in IT exports continues to set benchmarks that other states struggle to match**
> – Union Minister Jitin Prasada

Experts note that from leading the IT sector to gaining traction in the automotive industry, Karnataka continues to solidify its status as an economic powerhouse, enhancing India's global competitiveness across multiple sectors.

Health scheme upgrade approved

The Rate Revision Committee, led by MLA Dr NT Srinivas, has recommended an overhaul of treatment rates under the Yashaswini Health Protection Scheme. Submitted to the Chief Minister, the proposal suggests removing six outdated procedures and adding 69 new ones, including critical treatments in cancer care, interventional radiology, and heart surgeries. A rate hike of 15–25% is proposed for many procedures, with some specialized treatments seeing increases of up to 200%. The revision first since 2017–18 would raise the total treatments covered to 2,191 and is expected to cost an additional ₹70 crore. Of this, the government will bear ₹40 crore and members ₹30 crore. The update aims to boost hospital participation, especially in tier-two and tier-three cities. — BMB

BBMP cracks down on illegal advertisements

BBMP has introduced a revised Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) to clamp down on unauthorised advertisements across the city. The move, under Section 158 of the BBMP Act, 2020, mandates written permission from the Chief Commissioner for all advertisements. Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath emphasised that Zonal Commissioners had already instructed officials to take action against ads without trade license approval. The updated SoP forms advertisement control teams, including engineers, marshalls, and security staff, to identify and remove such ads. Assistant Executive Engineers will supervise and file FIRs against violators. A dedicated control room will coordinate with police, and police units like Hoysala will alert BBMP teams to violations. Offenders will face legal action under multiple laws. — BMB

Karnataka acts on wildlife conflicts

An A sum of Rs 157 crore has been sanctioned for measures to prevent human-wildlife conflict in and around Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, Male Mahadeshwara Hills (MM Hills), and Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve. The funding, approved in a state cabinet meeting, will cover the construction of elephant trenches, solar tentacles, solar fencing, and railway barricades. Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre emphasized the need to address rising conflicts causing loss of life and crop damage. He also urged officials to speed up the removal of invasive plant species like Senna and Lantana and tackle large-scale encroachments. Khandre expressed concern over the use of crude bombs for hunting wild boars and called for strict action under the Wildlife Protection Act.
— BMB

Apartment association fined for withholding deposit, refund ordered

A tenant approached the Bangalore Urban II Additional District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission after an apartment owners' association refused to return his security deposit. The commission found the association guilty of unfair trade practices and service deficiency, directing them to refund Rs 5,000 with 8% interest and pay Rs 10,000 for mental distress and litigation expenses.

The dispute began when Goutam Basu, 52, a resident of Cunningham Road, decided to vacate his flat at Neeladri Mahal Apartment-II, Benson Town, after residing there for three years. In August 2024, the apartment owners' association implemented a new rule requiring outgoing tenants to pay a Rs 5,000 security deposit against potential damages. Basu paid the amount on October 24 and was issued a receipt.

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

> **The Bangalore consumer commission found an apartment owners' association guilty of unfair trade practices for refusing to return a tenant's refundable security deposit**

On October 29, the association issued a No Objection Certificate (NoC), confirming there were no pending dues. A logistics company moved Basu's belongings the same day, and an association member inspected the flat, noting it was in excellent condition, with furniture such as double beds, wardrobes, and study tables intact.

However, when Basu emailed the association a week later requesting the refund, his communication was ignored. A registered letter he sent was returned marked "refused," and the apartment manager informed him on the treasurer's behalf that the deposit was non-refundable. This was despite the receipt stating otherwise.

Basu, who had regularly paid Rs 3,967 in monthly maintenance charges and Rs 900 towards the sinking fund since October 2021, sent a legal notice on November 4, 2024, which was also returned as "refused." He then filed a complaint with the commission on November 29, citing mental distress and financial loss due to misleading information regarding the refund ability of the deposit.

The association's president and treasurer failed to appear at the hearings and were declared ex-parte. The commission ruled that despite the tenant's full compliance with the rules and payments, the association's actions amounted to service deficiency and unfair trade practices. While it found Basu's demand for Rs 5 lakh in damages excessive, it awarded a total of Rs 15,000, including the deposit refund with interest and compensation for mental distress and litigation expenses. — BMB

Poof goes the investment dream

CCB probes Rs 3-crore investment scam by company that promised high monthly returns

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

CRIME FILES

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) has launched a probe into an alleged investment scam involving over Rs 3 crore, after a formal complaint was filed by the Commissioner of Police. The case revolves around CFS Marketing Pvt. Ltd., a company accused of luring investors with promises of high monthly returns.

The complaint, dated April 21, 2025, was filed by Raghukumar RS, a Yelahanka resident. According to Raghukumar, he and several others were persuaded to invest in CFS Marketing Pvt. Ltd. after being promised a 10% monthly return on their investments. The scheme was introduced to him by Narasimha Raju Kumar, a known acquaintance, who along with two others, Anur Shamshir and Laxman Kumar Behera, convinced the investors of the company's legitimacy.

Investors were invited to meetings at the company's registered office on Mahakavi Kuvempu Road, where they were shown formal presentations, a professional-looking website, and were provided with documentation including Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and post-dated cheques as assurance of returns.

Initially, from May 2023, the promised returns were paid out, which further boosted investor confidence and led to increased investment. However, after a few months, the payments stopped abruptly. Repeated attempts to reach the company went unanswered. The company's website was taken down, and all known contact numbers and email addresses became inactive, suggesting a premeditated effort to defraud.

Investors were invited to meetings at the company's registered office, where they were shown formal presentations, a proper website, given papers such as MoUs

Raghukumar claims that neither the invested capital nor the accrued returns were returned, raising suspicions of a large-scale scam. He has shared all available details with the police, including the contact information of the accused and the documentation provided by the company.

The CCB has registered the case and is now investigating the matter to identify those responsible and recover the lost funds. The police are also working to trace the accused individuals and determine if more victims are involved. Further updates are expected as the investigation progresses.

Special drive against wheeling: 6 riders fined Rs. 47,000

In a special operation conducted by the Byatarayanapura Traffic Police under the Bengaluru City Traffic West Division, six individuals were booked for performing dangerous wheeling stunts on motorcycles and scooters.

Cases were registered under Section 281 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 189 of the Indian Motor Vehicles (IMV) Act. The offenders were produced before the Court, which imposed fines ranging from Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 9,000 in each case. In total, Rs. 47,000 was collected as penalty.

The police have reiterated that such reckless acts endanger public safety and will be met with strict legal action.

Rai shooting: Guard held

A week after Ricky Rai, son of late underworld figure Muthappa Rai was shot at in Bidadi, the local police cracked the case, arresting 53-year-old Vittal Monappa, a security guard at Rai's residence.

According to investigators, Monappa opened fire on Rai's car in what appears to be a 'staged attack'. Ricky sustained injuries to his nose and right arm and is currently recovering in the hospital.

Police had initially explored the possibility of rival involvement, with Rai's driver naming individuals including Rakesh Malli (Rai's rival), stepmother Anuradha, realtor Nitesh Shetty, and Vidyanathan in his complaint. However, ballistic analysis and evidence from the crime scene pointed toward an insider's role.

Monappa was first questioned two days ago but had to be hospitalised due to health concerns. After being discharged on Thursday morning, he was interrogated for several hours and subsequently arrested.

While there is suspicion that the incident may have been staged to implicate rivals, the exact motive remains unclear. The police are continuing the investigation to determine the full extent of the conspiracy.

TERROR ATTACK

Cabinet adopts resolution condemning Pahalgam terrorist attack

The Karnataka cabinet on Thursday adopted a resolution condemning the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, and accused the Union Home Ministry and intelligence agencies of "failing" to prevent it.

The cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, also called for an investigation into these lapses.

The terror attack in Pahalgam on Tuesday left at least 26 people dead, including two from Karnataka.

"Our government strongly condemns the terrorist attack on innocent civilians in Pahalgam. We express our heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased on behalf of the people of Karnataka," the resolution stated.

It described terrorist attacks as heinous crimes against humanity and urged the nation to unite in the fight to eradicate terrorism in all forms.

"However, the failure of the Union Home Department is the reason for these heinous attacks, from Pulwama to Pahalgam, the resolution said. The situation is such that the Intelligence Department has to hang its head in shame at the international level for its weaknesses and failures."

"Moreover, hundreds of families have been orphaned. The Karnataka government strongly condemns this failure of the Home Ministry," it added. PTI

Can't invoke Act prohibiting transfer of SC/ST land twice

The Karnataka High Court has determined that grantees cannot invoke the Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prohibition of Transfer of Certain Lands) (PTCL) Act repeatedly for lands that were previously restored and subsequently sold again.

IN HIGH COURT

The court emphasised that allowing such practices would undermine legal proceedings, turning the resumption process into a meaningless exercise.

Justice N S Sanjay Gowda referenced a 2012 division bench ruling in Bhadre Gowda v. Deputy Commissioner, stating:

"It is therefore clear that this Court has clearly held that the act of a grantee in repeatedly selling the granted lands which had been resumed in his favour would be a criminal offence amounting to cheating.

The provisions of a remedial statute cannot be utilised for perpetuating a crime".

The court analysed Section 4 of the PTCL Act, confirming that whilst initial transfers violating grant terms are void, the provision does not address subsequent alienations after restoration. BMB

Not official: HC frowns on misuse of national symbols

The Karnataka High Court has expressed concern over the "unfortunate" practice of former constitutional authorities, ex-MPs and legislators misusing national symbols by displaying them on letterheads and vehicle number plates.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice N V Anjaria and Justice M I Arun noted:

"It is true and unfortunate that there is tendency amongst the constitutional authorities who are the former authorities no more in the office, the former Members of the Parliament or Ex-Legislators have been misusing the Emblem, Flags, Names, etc. by fixing them in their letter heads and the number plates of the vehicles. This conduct is both unfortunate and depreciable. The misuse, misprojection and misstatement of these Symbols, Emblems and Names have to be prevented resolutely. The state of affairs prevails in the society which needs to be immediately remedied by the law enforcing agencies."

Strict implementation called for

The court issued a writ of mandamus to various authorities, including Union Ministry secretaries and state government officials, directing strict implementation of relevant laws regarding emblems, names and symbols usage.

"The respondents are directed to instruct and require all implementing authorities below them to ensure the compliance of the aforementioned statutory provisions of the Acts and the Rules," the court stated.

The court outlined seven specific directives, including public notices for removal of unauthorised symbols, sensitisation programmes for officials, strict enforcement measures, involvement of students in awareness campaigns, and training for traffic police.

Court notes tendency to misuse the Emblem, Flags, Names, by fixing them in letter heads and number plates of the vehicles by people not in office

The ruling came whilst addressing a public interest litigation filed by the High Court Legal Services Committee seeking implementation of various laws concerning emblems and symbols. BMB

Victims cremated with police honours

Members from various walks of life joined the families in mourning the two terror victims from Karnataka who were cremated on Thursday amid a charged atmosphere where slogans denouncing Pakistan were raised.

The two victims, Manjunath Rao and Bharath Bushan were among the 26 people killed in front of their families after confirming their religious identity in Kashmir's Pahalgam on Tuesday. Most of those killed by terrorists were tourists.

The two slain men were cremated with police honours on Thursday.

While Manjunath's last rites were performed in Shivamogga, Bhushan's cremation was held in Bengaluru.

Ministers, political leaders, government officials including police officers and activists joined the family members of the deceased to send the departed soul with honour in their final journey.

The family members were inconsolable as the pyre was lit.

The crowd present there shouted slogans hailing India and condemning Pakistan for allegedly sponsoring terrorism in the country. PTI

Of total murders in state, just handful were for gain

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

emotions so such motives are common."

Preventive measures working

While murders remain a major concern, police also pointed out a decline in attempt-to-murder cases, suggesting that preventive measures and surveillance efforts may be playing some role in stopping crimes from escalating.

Data released by the police department shows a fluctuating trend in murder cases across the first four months of 2025. January saw 14 murder cases, followed by 21 in February, 12 in March, and eight until April 15. Many of these were fueled by adultery, personal vendetta or enmity, monetary gain, love intrigue, revenge or sudden quarrel.

Further, out of the total murders reported statewide this year, only a handful were categorised as "murders for gain". In January, out of 98 total murders, four were for gain. In February, there were three such cases out of 103, and in March, two out of 100 were committed with motive for gain.

Among the cases that shook the city recently, was the brutal killing of a 60-year-old timber shop owner in SB Nagar last Tuesday. The victim, Syed Afzal, was murdered by a 23-year-old worker, Surya Prakash, who reportedly had a relationship with Afzal's daughter — a connection the father strongly opposed.

A drunken altercation between the two ended fatally when Prakash attacked Afzal with a sharp weapon. He was arrested within hours, and a murder case was registered under Kumaraswamy Layout police station.

In another harrowing case, in the second week of April, a 50-year-old watchman was killed in Vaderahalli, near Kengeri, after he denied entry to three men who wanted to party inside a private property. The trio — Mohan, Mahesh, and Punith beat him with wooden planks and stole his mobile phone before fleeing. The victim managed to name his attackers before succumbing to injuries. All three have since been arrested.

Perhaps the most shocking case involved the killing of an 82-year-old woman by her son on April 10. The accused, Mahendra Singh, bludgeoned his mother to death with an iron rod in Muneshwara Nagar after she refused him money to buy alcohol.

Mahendra, a known alcoholic, fled the scene but was later apprehended by Bagalgunte police.

Prevent disasters, say activists

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

engineer and the crew members will be equipped with gumboots and jackets.

However, social activists have termed the increase in costs, a waste of tax-payers' money. "There is no need to set up control rooms at all wards. The BBMP must give importance to filling up potholes and removing silt and garbage from road-side drains to prevent flooding. What is the use of setting up control rooms if the storm water drains are clogged?" said V Shivakumar, a social activist.

Coming down heavily on the rampant corruption among the workers and contractors engaged in cutting trees and removing fallen trees during monsoon, a resident of Cambridge Layout recalled how the residents struggled to get fallen trees cleared by the people assigned by the BBMP. "I think Rs 5 lakh is too much to allocate for each control room," the resident said. Yatish, a resident of Rajajinagar, said that the BBMP is not adding any new equipment to the control room.

HM Venkatesh of Naija Horatagarara Vedike said the BBMP is trying to make the public believe that they are prepared for the monsoon. "I want the BBMP to prevent disasters during monsoon," Venkatesh said.

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Notice is hereby given that **1. Sri. SANJAY .M, 2. Smt. ARUNA KUMAR, 3. Ms. NIKITHA B.KUMAR & 4. Ms. MADHUMITHA B.KUMAR** are desirous to sell the under mentioned property to my client and any person or persons claiming any interest on the under mentioned property or any part thereof, is hereby required to communicate the same to me with documentary evidence at my office, situated at **DOOR No.2765/1A D13/A1, "KEYANS", 5TH MAIN ROAD, V.V. PURAM (V.V. MOHALLA), MYSORE - 570 002,** within 21 (Twenty One) days from the date of this publication, as otherwise the said sale willbe completed without any reference or regard to any such purported claim or interest, which shall be deemed to have been waived for all intents and purposes.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Plot No.28, Hootagalli City Municipal Council, Property No. 8902102926, Old Property No.354 Plot No.28, Assessment No.354 Plot No.28, Ward No.33, situated in Hebbal Housing Industrial Area, Hebbal, Mysore (formerly in Sy.No.317(P) and 318(P), Hebbal Village, Kasaba Hobli, Mysore Taluk, Mysore District), admeasuring 1630.00 Square Meters and bounded on North: Plot No.27, South: Plot No.29 and 30, East: MUDA Ring Road and West: KIADB Road.

Date : 23.04.2025
Place : Mysore

Dhirendra Kumar R. Mehta
Advocate
KEY-ANS LAW SOLUTIONS

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Renu Bala Jain, R/o. No-3,Jain Vatika Building,Railway Parallel Road,Nehru Nagar, B'luru 560020 have changed my name to Renu Jain for all purposes.

I, Pradeep G. S/o Ganesha C, R/o #D1203,Vaswani Exquisite Apt, ITPL Main Road, Maruthi Nagar, Hoodi, Bengaluru, 560048 shall be know as Pradeep Ganesha for all purpose.

I, HEMASHREE DEVANATH R/at No. 51111, Tower 5, 11th Flr, Nikoo Homes-1 Hegde Ngr Mn Rd, Thanisandra, B'lore 560064 changed my name to HEMASHREE VIJAYAMURTHY vide affidavit dated 11.04.2025 sworn before notary V. Rangaramu

I, Raksha Biadai Mahipathi R/o No.314, Mallathalli main road, near BBH college, Mallathalli, Bengaluru 560056 have changed my name to Raksha Bidadi Mahipathi Affidavit Dt.24/04/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Syed Fayaz Ansar R/o Kattigenahalli Hosakote Taluk Bangalore Rural 562114 have changed my minor son name from Syed Zameeruddin to Syed Zafeeruddin.

I, Dhruthi Ravitheja D/o Raviteja K B R/o 18/1, Sri Byrav, NGEF layout road, Mallathahalli, Bengaluru 560056 have changed my name to Dhruthi Raviteja Affidavit Dt.24/04/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Jaivik Rajeshkumar Shah S/O, Rajeshkumar Radheshyam Shah R/o F902, Kolte Patil Mirabilis, Horamavu Agara Main Road, Horamavu, Bangalore, Karnataka 560043 have changed my name to Shah Jaivik Rajeshbhai.

I, Saidusab Rajesab Seemikeri S/o Rajesab Simikeri R/o #403, Perody Guru Apts Kodichikkanahalli B'lore-560076 have changed my name to Saidusab Simikeri

I Kalyan Kumar S S/O C R Senthil Kumar r/o 11, 3A Cross, Chinnaswamappa Layout, Horamavu, Bangalore - 560 043 have changed my minor daughter name to Mritisha K from Mritisha For all purposes Permanently.

I, Shiva Kumara S/O, Ramappa R/o No 31/32, Hillside Meadows Layout,hesragatta, Main Road Chikkabettahalli, Vidyaranyapura Banglore 560097 have changed my name to Shiva Kumar R for all purposes.

I, NISHA R/at Somanna Building, Salagame Rd, Behind IPB Petrol Bunk, Vishveshwaraiah Extn, Hassan 573201 changed my name to NISHA DASARAKOPPALU SOMEGOWDA vide affidavit dated 11.04.2025 sworn before notary V. Rangaramu

I ABEED HUSSAIN S/o Abdul Khadar Noor Jamal R/o No 171 1st Crs Telecom Layout Pipe Line Bangalore 560023 have changed my name to ABEED HUSSAIN MOHAMMED KHADAR for all Purposes

I, Chandrika Moses Mani w/o Murali Mani T R/o 1240, D-block, 5th cross, Aecs Lyt, Kundalahalli, Bengaluru 560037 have changed my name to Chandrika Mani Affidavit Dt.17/04/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

LOST & FOUND

LOST: I, Mrs.Lakshmi W/o Late Venkatesh, residing at No. 5, 3rd 4th Main road, Madiwala Bangalore-560068 have lost our original Sale Deed Reg # 3583 dated 16/06/2016 Document # 375/1984-85 Volume 2318, Pages 73 to 76 regarding this we have given a police complaint. If anybody found please contact mobile: 74111 08712 or handover to the nearest police station.

I, Narayana Prasad S, residing at #535, 4th Cross, HAL 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560008, have lost Document No. 1449/66-67, on 27.01.2025 at Indiranagar, Bengaluru. Finder please contact: 9663965461

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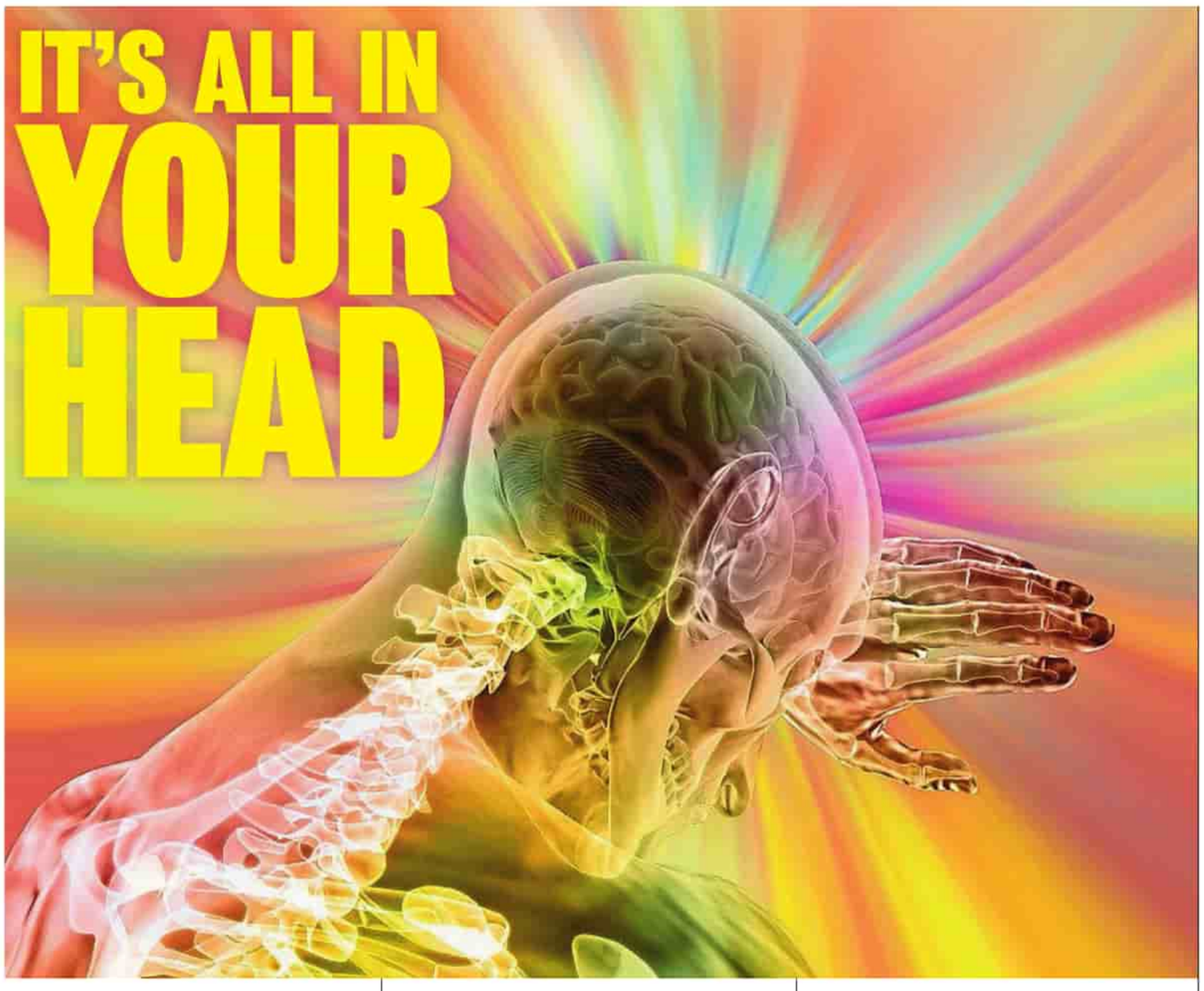


This brain disorder is more common than multiple sclerosis – but often goes undiagnosed

Imagine suddenly losing the ability to move a limb, walk or speak. You would probably recognise this as a medical emergency and get to hospital.

Now imagine the doctors at the hospital run some tests and then say, "Good news! All your tests were normal, clear scans, and nothing is wrong. You can go home!" Yet, you are still experiencing very real and disabling symptoms.

Unfortunately, this is the experience of many people with functional neurological disorder. Even worse, some are blamed and reprimanded for exaggerating or faking their symptoms.

So, what is this disorder, and why is it so challenging to recognise and treat?

What is functional neurological disorder?

Neurological disorders are conditions that affect how the nervous system works. The nervous system sends and receives messages between the brain and other parts of your body to regulate a wide range of functions, such as movement, speaking, vision, thinking and digestion.

To the untrained eye, functional neurological disorder can resemble other conditions such as stroke, multiple sclerosis or epilepsy.

But, unlike these conditions, functional neurological symptoms aren't due to damage or a disease process affecting the nervous system. This means the disorder doesn't appear on routine brain imaging and other tests.

Functional symptoms are, instead, due to dysfunction in the processing of information between several brain networks. Simply put, it's a problem of the brain's software, not the hardware.

What are the symptoms?

Functional neurological disorder can produce a kaleidoscope of diverse and changing symptoms. This often adds to confusion for patients and make diagnosis more challenging.

Symptoms may include paralysis or abnormal movements such as tremors, jerks and tics. This often leads to difficulty walking or coordinating movements.

Sensory symptoms may involve numbness, tingling or loss of vision.

Dissociative symptoms, such as functional seizures and blackouts, are also common.

Some people experience cognitive symptoms including brain fog or problems finding the right words. Fatigue and chronic pain frequently coexist with these symptoms.

These symptoms can be severe and distressing and, without treatment, can persist for years. For example, some people with functional neurological disorder cannot walk and must use a wheelchair for decades.

Diagnosis involves identifying established diagnostic signs and ensuring no other diagnoses are missed. This process is best carried out by an experienced neurologist or neuropsychiatrist.

How common is it?

Functional neurological disorder is one of the most common medical conditions seen in emergency care and in outpatient neurology clinics.

It affects around 10–22 people per 100,000 per year. This makes it more common than multiple sclerosis.

Despite this, it is often under-recognised and misunderstood by health-care professionals. This leads to delays in diagnosis and treatment.

This lack of awareness also contributes to the perception that it's rare, when it's actually common among neurological disorders.

Who does functional neurological disorder affect?

This condition can affect anyone, although it is more common in women and younger people. Around two thirds of patients are female, but this gender disparity reduces with age.

Understanding of the disorder has developed significantly over the past few decades, but there's still more to learn. Several biological, psychological, and social factors can predispose people.

Genetics, traumatic life experiences, anxiety and depression can increase the risk. Stressful life events, illness, or physical injuries can trigger or worsen existing symptoms.

But not everyone with the disorder has experienced significant trauma or stress.

How is it treated?

If left untreated, about half the people with this condition will remain the same or their symptoms will worsen. However, with the help of experienced clinicians, many people can make rapid recoveries when treatment starts early.

There are no specific medications for functional neurological disorder but personalised rehabilitation guided by experienced clinicians is recommended.

Some people may need a team of multidisciplinary clinicians that may include physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, psychologists and doctors.

People also need accurate information about their condition, because understanding and beliefs about the disorder play an important role in recovery. Accurate information helps patients to develop more realistic expectations, reduces anxiety and can empower people to be more active in their recovery.

Treating common co-existing conditions, such as anxiety or depression, can also be helpful.

A dark history

The origins of the disorder are deeply rooted in the sexist history of its pre-scientific ancestor – hysteria. The legacy of hysteria has cast a long shadow, contributing to a misogynistic bias in perception and treatment. This historical context has led to ongoing stigma, where symptoms were often labelled as psychological and not warranting treatment.

Women with functional symptoms often face scepticism and dismissal. In some cases, significant harm occurs through stigmatisation, inadequate care and poor management. Modern medicine has attempted to address these biases by recognising functional neurological disorder as a legitimate condition.

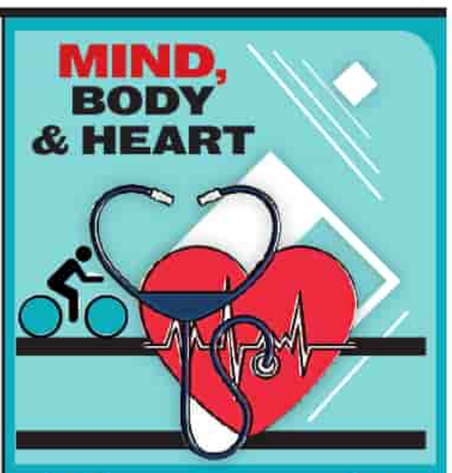
A lack of education for medical professionals likely contributes to stigma. Many clinicians report low confidence and knowledge about their ability to manage the disorder.

A bright future?

Fortunately, awareness, research and interest has grown over the past decade. Many treatment approaches are being trialled, including specialist physiotherapy, psychological therapies and non-invasive brain stimulation.

Patient-led organisations and support networks are making headway advocating for improvements in health systems, research and education. The goal is to unite patients, their families, clinicians, and researchers to advance a new standard of care across the world.

(By Benjamin Scrivener, University of Auckland, Waipapa Taumata Rau, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Benefits of banana

1. Could Potassium Be Your Heart's Best Friend?
Bananas are packed with potassium, a mineral that helps regulate blood pressure and supports heart function, reducing the risk of hypertension and heart disease. For women, especially as they age, maintaining heart health is crucial, and bananas can be a simple part of the solution.

2. Keep Your Digestion on Track with This Simple Fruit
The high fiber content in bananas aids in digestion, helping to prevent constipation and promoting a healthy gut. Fiber also helps in maintaining blood sugar levels. A healthy digestive system supports overall well-being, and bananas make it easy to stay on track.

3. Need an Energy Boost? Reach for a Banana
Bananas are an excellent natural energy source. The carbohydrates in bananas provide quick energy, making them a great pre- or post-workout snack. For busy women constantly on the go, bananas are a simple, energy-boosting snack that fits into your routine.

4. Stressful Day? Bananas Can Help Lift Your Mood
Bananas are rich in tryptophan, an amino acid that the body uses to produce serotonin, the "feel-good" hormone, helping to improve mood and reduce stress. Women juggling work, life, and everything in between can count on bananas to help manage stress naturally.

5. A Weight-Friendly Snack That Fills You Up
Bananas are low in calories yet rich in nutrients and fiber, helping you feel full longer. Their natural sweetness can also curb sugar cravings, making them a good snack option. They're perfect for those looking to maintain a balanced diet without feeling deprived.

—Femina

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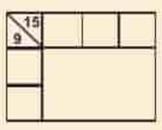
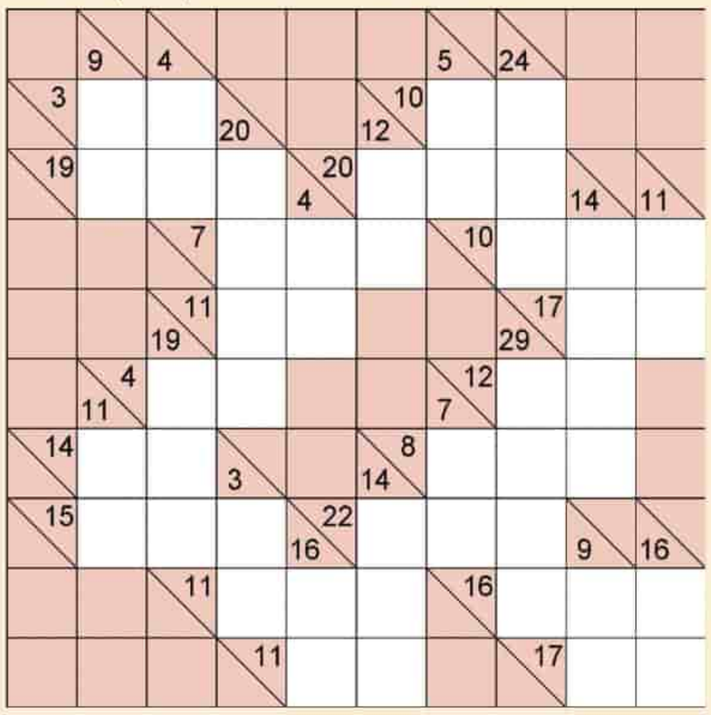
Kakuro

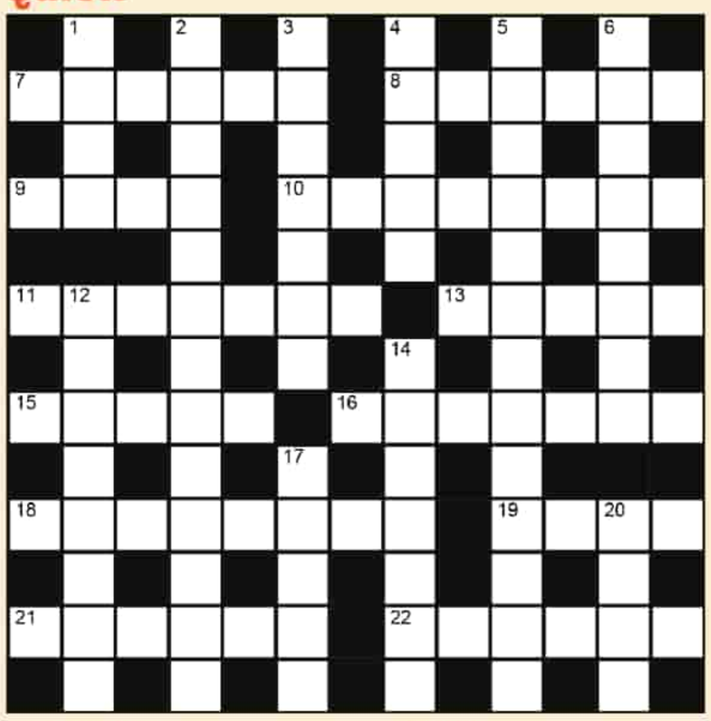
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Caught breath, strained for air (6)
8 Absorbed (4,2)
9 Bohemian Rhapsody star ___ Malek (4)
10 Shiner (5-3)
11 Billionaires? (4,3)
13 Permitted or legal (5)
15 National park home to tigers, panthers and elephants (5)
16 Provision supplier (7)
18 Matured, softened with age (8)
19 Ex-Tennis champ Arthur ___ (4)
21 ___ out : utters thoughtlessly or tactlessly? (6)
22 Puzzle (6)

DOWN

1 Farewell (2-2)
2 Rising early (2,4,3,4)
3 Things fit to eat (7)
4 Plagiarize or pilfer (5)
5 Be miraculously effective? (4,4,5)
6 All across town (4-4)
12 Ex-Aussie wicket keeper (3,5)
14 Wax lighting rods (7)
17 Form into a spiral (5)
20 Sings wordlessly (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: L EQUALS I

NIFLGR LPY'D IXUMD QOUPZ XGUUB RUM OISZ. LD'P IXUMD QOU RUM EIWZ IXUMD.

Linemaro

Hey, you're pretty and I am cute. Together we'd be Pretty Cute

Mindchow

Without deviation from the norm, progress is not possible

Joke of the day

I married way too young. She was Chinese

Loop

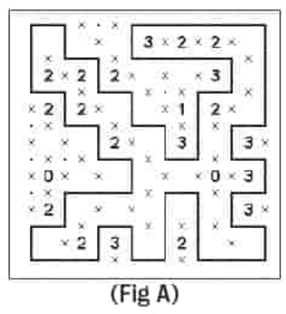
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

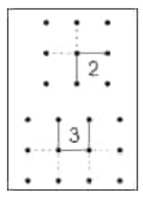
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

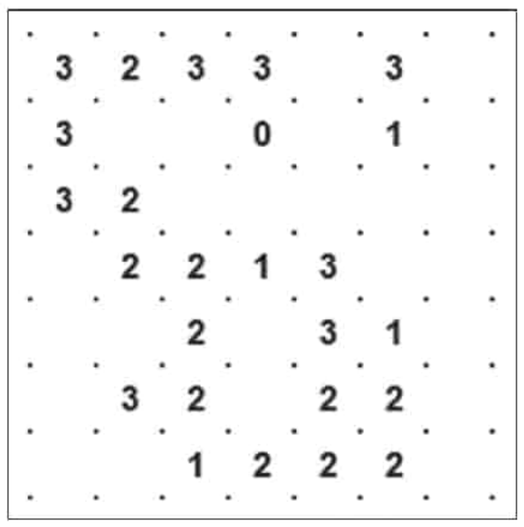
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



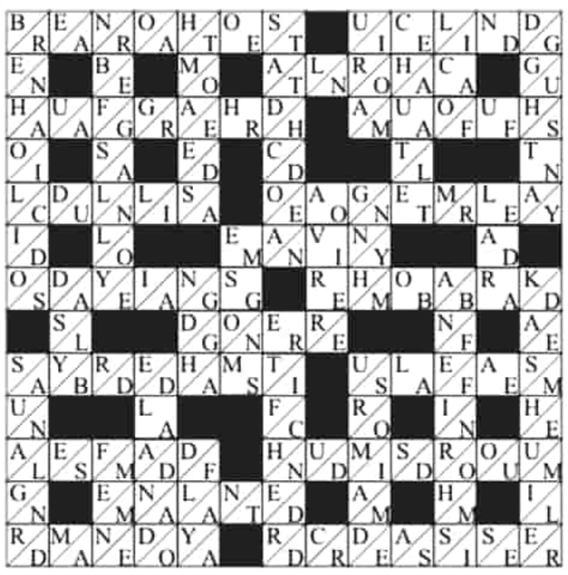
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



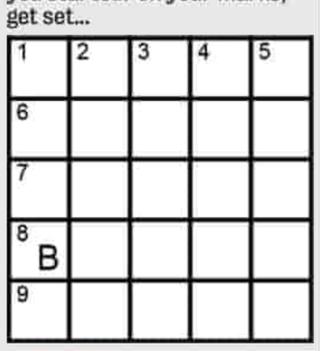
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

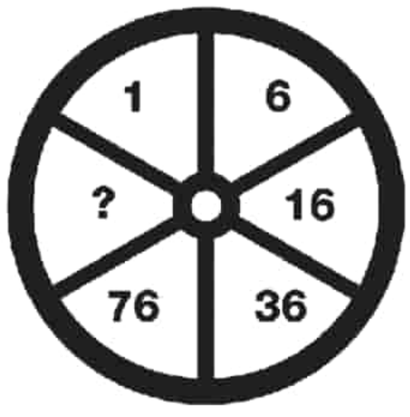
1 Least; 6 Ems he;
7 Or ATM; 8 N cube;
9 Regur

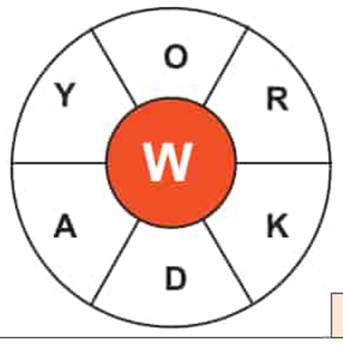
DOWN

1 Hub as; 2 Muler;
3 Mango; 4 Erect;
5 Steer

Mensapuzzle

Which number completes this wheel?





Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; **08** Good; **10** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	4	5	7					1
7			2			9		
8		9			1			2
	9		4					
3		8				6		4
					8		1	
9			8			4		5
		7			2			8
1					6	3	7	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 2

3 4 5 6

Medium = 21

1 5 7 9

Hard = 10

5 6 8 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

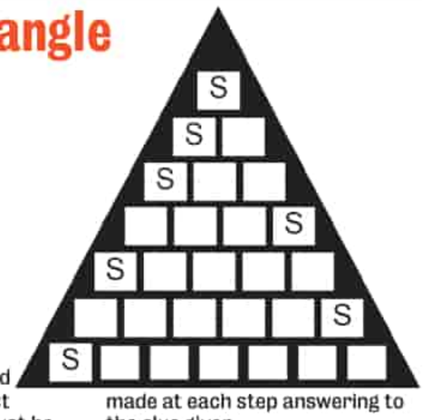
Differences: 1. Dollar is added. 2. Mouth is open. 3. Wheel is moved. 4. Building is added. 5. Man's nose is different. 6. Man's ear is larger.

Riddler

Stick around a yard. Attended by a maid. With gas or H_2O. Broken here or in a song that is poorly played. What is it?

Alpha triangle

1 Sulphur symbol
2 Thus
3 Male offspring
4 Lots and lots
5 Nasal sound
6 Irritants
7 Abridge



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

I CAN'T CUT OR PULL 'AT SILLY HAIR ORF YER HEAD.. I'LL HAVE TA DO SOMETHIN' ELSE!
HM?
?
NOW YA LOOKS LIKE ME LI'L SWEE'PEA AGAIN!
?
popeye.com
7-27

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

SHOULD I DO IT? SHOULD I SNEAK INTO THE TURTLE-FEEDING GROUP??
IT'S RISKY. MR. BRIXTON HAS EYES EVERYWHERE.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
LOOK AT THAT CRAB. HE PROBABLY WORKS FOR MR. BRIXTON!
I'M DOING IT. STAND BY THE BATHROOM. IF ANYONE ASKS, I'M IN THERE.
YOU GOT IT!
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY
AND YOU KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.

Crankshaft

SO FAR FOR MY BACK, I'VE SEEN A MASSOTHERAPIST, A DOCTOR, A CHIROPRACTOR, AN ACUPUNCTURIST AND A PHYSICAL THERAPIST...
© 2025 Hearst Magazines, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
AND ACTUALLY MY BACK IS A LITTLE BETTER...
1-17
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
NOW THAT MY WALLET IS SO MUCH LIGHTER!

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today brings strong vitality and good health. You'll enjoy your work, but your challenge is to avoid being overly blunt. Steer clear of arguments over trivial matters—controlling your words will help you build better business partnerships and maintain family harmony. Job seekers may find suitable opportunities. Love birds should avoid unnecessary debates.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Your energy might feel a bit low today, and an old health issue could resurface. Take things slow—avoid adventurous activities or legal entanglements. If any disputes arise, it's better to settle them outside of court. An overseas trip may be on the horizon.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Profits from past investments could roll in today, and business ideas may see positive growth. You might meet an influential figure who offers valuable guidance. Love birds might take steps toward marriage, and couples could receive good news about children. Job seekers are likely to find a great opportunity.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Support from your family and spouse will enhance domestic peace. Although work pressure might limit your time at home, your professional life looks promising. Projects linked to government agencies may start moving forward now.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You're in a spiritually positive space today. You may feel drawn to religious or mystical topics, and even visit a sacred place. Your thoughts are more refined, but it's best to share them only with people who truly understand you. Occult sciences might attract your curiosity.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
You may feel a bit anxious or impatient today. Seeking peace, you might explore spiritual or mystical topics. Trust your intuition—it could guide you well. Focus and research can lead to deep learning or valuable insights in your area of interest.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
The moon brings positive vibes to your professional and personal life. Investments may yield gains, and you'll likely receive support from friends and family. Your hard work is starting to pay off—success is within reach.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
You're in a better place today. Kids' health improves, and you may plan future investments for them. Your loyalty to work is strong, and job seekers might land a position through referrals. You may also uncover hidden enemies—and successfully deal with them thanks to blessings around you.

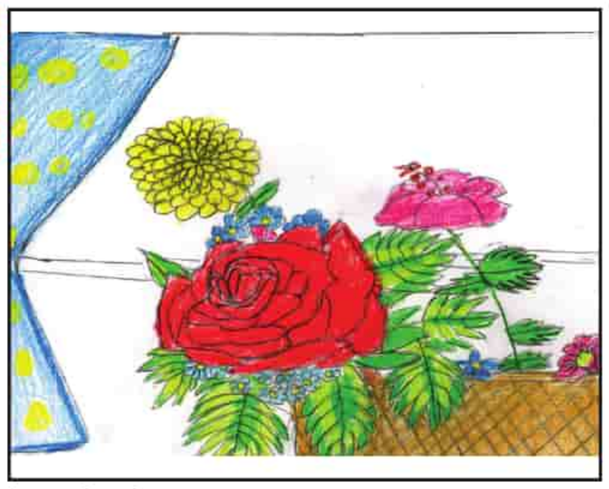
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Good news may come your way in terms of job or career. Job seekers are focused and may succeed in competitive exams. Singles may get engaged to someone special, and some may hear joyful news about a childbirth.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
New income sources may open up today, and past investments could show impressive returns. You might join a social group, expanding your network. Singles have a good chance of meeting someone special who could become a life partner.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Elderly blessings boost your confidence. Trust your intuition—it may guide you to financial success. A family trip to a religious place might be on the cards. Just remember to keep your ego in check to maintain peace at home. Students may see good academic outcomes.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Elders' blessings are with you. New income streams could appear, improving your financial situation. You may plan to renovate your home or expand your family business. A major order could bring significant growth. Be cautious when signing contracts, and look forward to movement in long-stalled projects.

KIDZONE



Ananya, Bengaluru

N Sanat, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
4!÷2(2)+2!
4!÷2(2)+4!
24÷2(2)+24
12(2)+24
24+24 = 48

BULL'S EYE
awry, dowry, draw, rowdy, ward, wary, word, wordy, work, WORKDAY

STRIKE OUT

B	E	R	A	T	E	S
H	A	G	G	A	R	D
O	A	D		D		
L	U	L	S		E	A
D		L		E	N	V
S	A	Y	I	N	G	
A	B	R	E	A	S	T
N		L		C		O
A	S	M	A	D		H
D	A	N	D	Y		D

FAST FIVE

S	L	A	T	E
H	E	M	E	S
A	M	O	R	T
B	U	N	C	E
U	R	G	E	R

RIDDLER
Meter

QUOTE UNCODE
Family isn't about whose blood you have. It's about who you care about.

QUICK

T	U		E	S		C
G	A	S	P	E	D	
R	A	M	I		I	
B	L	A	C	K	E	Y
A		L		L		W
M	E	L	O	W	E	D
H		E		T		N
A	N	S	H	I		C
R	I	C	H	M	E	N
L		T		L		I
B	L	U	R	T	S	
A		I		A		H
G	A	S	P	E	D	
T		W		I		E
C		K	I	N	G	

MENSA PUZZLE
156. Start with 1 and move clockwise. Multiply the previous number by 2 and add 4 to give the next number around.

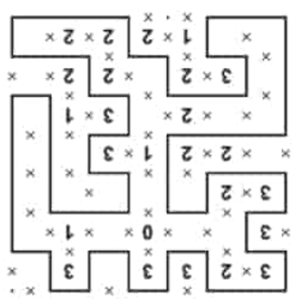
SUDOKU

2	4	5	7	6	9	8
7	1	3	2	8	4	9
8	6	9	3	5	1	7
6	9	1	4	2	3	5
5	7	4	6	9	8	2
3	2	8	1	7	5	6
9	3	6	8	1	7	4
4	5	7	9	3	2	1
1	8	2	5	4	6	3

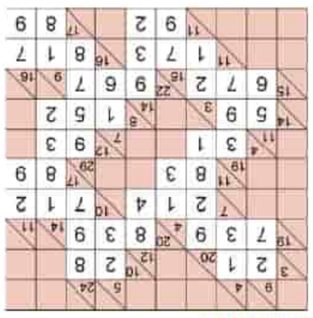
ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, So, Son, tons, Snort, Thorns, Shorten.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 – 5 + 6 – 3 = 2
Medium
7 + 5 x 1 + 9 = 21
Hard
7 – 8 + 6 + 5 = 10

LOOP



KAKURO



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 # Asghar Farhadi's 2nd French directorial
Iranian filmmaker Asghar Farhadi is set to return to Paris for his next film, 'Parallel Tales'. The film, whose plot remains under wraps, brings together a powerful French cast that includes Isabelle Huppert

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Maiden movie

Director Praveen Kumar G from Ballari is excited about the release of his maiden movie Amara Premi Arun. It is said Amara Premi Arun is first of its kind as it is the only movie made on a love story from Ballari, in a dialect from there. "Prior to this, I worked as assistant director for Koormavatara directed by veteran director Girish Kasaravalli. I have also worked as an assistant director for Dana Kayonu, and have written dialogues for six Kannada movies," said Kumar.

The movie is scheduled to arrive in theaters on Friday across the state. "This movie is a tribute to the Ballari and an attempt to showcase the region's dialect and cultural identity," the director said. Harisharva, who has acted in Kahi, plays the lead in Amara Premi Arun while Deepika Aradhya is paired opposite him. Amara Premi Arun is the fourth movie for Deepika who has already proved her mettle in Supplier Shankar, Body God, and Hitler Kalayan. "Harisharva's character represents love, loyalty, and life in the Bellary region. Deepika's character showcases the strength of Bayalu Seeme women," the director said.

Brand new director

PVasu has directed some successful movies in Sandalwood such as Apthamithra, Shivalinga, and Drishya. Now, his nephew Balaji Madhavan is set to make his debut as a director in Sandalwood. Balaji helmed the Tamil movie Idi Minnal Kadhal that was released a year ago.

An announcement that Balaji would soon direct a Kannada film was made on the occasion of Kannada matinee idol Dr Rajkumar's birth anniversary on April 24. Karunada Chakravarthy Dr Shivarajkumar will play the lead role in the movie that is scheduled to go on floors shortly.

Sagar, Krishna Kumar, and Suraj Sharma are bankrolling the movie under the Shrithik Motion Pictures banner. It will be their first Kannada movie as producers. According to sources, the producers met Dr Shivarajkkumar recently at the latter's residence and discussed the script of the movie with him. The sources said Dr Shivarajkumarwanted moviegoers to try and guess the title of the movie.

A WHOLE NEW AVATAR

These actors didn't let setbacks get them down. They just shone brighter...

ETimes looks at celebs who've totally reinvented themselves and tracks their journey from screen struggles to stunning comebacks.

Bobby Deol – From '90s Hero to OTT Sensation

Bobby Deol's second innings has been nothing short of epic. After a successful run in the '90s and early 2000s, he struggled to find his place in the evolving film industry. But the web series Aashram brought him roaring back into the spotlight. With his intense and layered role as a controversial godman, Bobby proved he's not done yet — and in fact, is just getting started.

Shahid Kapoor – From Chocolate Boy to Intense Performer

Shahid's early years in Bollywood were marked by sweet, romantic roles (Ishq Vishk, Vivah), but they boxed him in. He broke out of that image with Kaminey, and later, Haider and Udta Punjab solidified his image as a serious actor. His brooding, layered performances post-2010 reshaped his place in the industry. With Kabir Singh, he reached new heights of stardom — showcasing that reinvention often lies in embracing risk.

Sushmita Sen – From Pageantry to Powerful Roles

Sushmita Sen was always known as a beauty queen and style icon. After taking a long break from films, she made a smashing comeback with the web series Aarya. Her role as a mother-turned-mafia queen earned her critical acclaim and a whole new fanbase. Sushmita's journey shows that age, motherhood, and industry breaks are no barriers to reinvention.

Rani Mukerji – Comeback Queen With a Purpose

After a series of career ups and downs, Rani Mukerji took a step back — only to return with purpose-driven films like Mardaani, Hichki, and Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway. Her roles now reflect power, resilience, and substance, showing how reinvention can be both creative and deeply personal.

Demi Moore says 'ageing actually is a tremendous gift'

Actress Demi Moore sets an example for many on how one can age gracefully without feeling any pressure and still look stunning at 62.

She has been part of the cultural moment where women in their 50s, 60s, and 70s are being celebrated and recognised.

Moore believes things are "very different" today than they would've been in the past. "I think that there was a sense of things ending at a certain point as opposed to the reality, which is just that we're evolving, it's not ending," she said, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

"I have also thought recently about this idea that ageing and being old are not the same thing. And somehow we've confused that and that ageing actually is a tremendous gift," the actress said before adding, "I would not trade -- you could not pay me to be 21. As good as it might sound, it was torture!," she added while speaking at the Time100 summit, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

She shared that she is in a "peaceful space of acceptance and freedom". Actress Mikey Madison took home the Best Actress Award at the Oscars 2025. Moore shared that if she could see herself on the Dolby Theatre stage in the future, following her best actress loss to Madison. "I think that would be nice. I can't say I would be mad at it," Moore said, adding, "The question is, 'Should I have won?' It is certainly not the perspective of how I hold it because I didn't." — ANI

Birthday boy with fans

Actor Varun Dhawan turned 38 on Thursday and chose to celebrate his special day with his fans in Mumbai.

The 'Baby John' actor took to his Instagram to share a video from his meet-and-greet event at a local restaurant.

In the video, Varun can be seen cutting his birthday cake with photographers, posing for pictures, and later meeting fans inside the cafe. The actor also recreated some of his popular dance moves, leaving fans excited. In the video, a fan can be heard saying, "After my parents, he (Varun) is the one I love the most."

Along with the video, Varun added a caption that read, "I got to celebrate my birthday with the people that matter the most the reason I'm here. The fans. This really made my day. Thank you to my team for putting this together."

Meanwhile, on the work front, the actor has a packed schedule ahead. He will next be seen in Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai, where he stars opposite Pooja Hegde.

He is also preparing for Border 2, which brings together a powerful cast including Sunny Deol, Diljit Dosanjh, and Ahan Shetty. Directed by Anurag Singh, the movie is a follow-up to the 1997 war film Border, a major hit that depicted the 1971 India-Pakistan war. " —ANI